



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

19 FEBRUARY 2021

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### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Los Angeles – Man Pleads Guilty for Fraudulently Obtaining Money From COVID-19 Jobless Relief

(U) Bonifacio Jastilana Marinas, 50, pleaded guilty yesterday to a federal criminal charge that he fraudulently obtained more than \$500,000 in COVID-19-related unemployment benefits in the names of foreign nationals he falsely claimed were local real estate agents hit hard financially by the pandemic. According to his plea agreement, from April 2020 to August 2020, Marinas took advantage of provisions in the CARES Act to file approximately 85 unemployment insurance claims with the California Employment Development Department that falsely asserted that the named claimants were self-employed real estate agents in Los Angeles County whose jobs had been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Marinas often listed his own real estate business – Vintage Realty & Finance Inc., located in West Covina – as the purported workplace of the named claimants.

SOURCE: 18 February 2021, [Central California DOJ](#)

#### (U) San Francisco – SolarWinds Hackers Studied Microsoft Source Code for Authentication and Email

(U) The hackers behind the worst intrusion of US government agencies in years won access to Microsoft's secret source code for authenticating customers, potentially aiding one of their main attack methods. Microsoft said in a blog post yesterday, that its internal investigation had found the hackers studied parts of the source code instructions for its Azure cloud programs related to identity and security, its Exchange email programs, and Intune management for mobile devices and applications. Some of the code was downloaded which would have allowed the hackers even more freedom to hunt for security vulnerabilities, create copies with new flaws, or examine the logic for ways to exploit customer installations.

SOURCE: 18 February 2021, [Reuters](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) District of Columbia – Six Capitol Police Officers Suspended, 29 Others Being Investigated

(U) Washington – Six US Capitol Police officers have been suspended with pay, and 29 others have been placed under investigation, for their actions in the 6 January riot. Acting Chief Yogananda Pittman has directed that any member of her department whose behavior is not in keeping with the Department's Rules of Conduct will face appropriate discipline. One of the suspended officers took a selfie with someone who was part of the mob that overtook the Capitol. Another wore a "Make America Great Again" hat and started directing people around the building. The suspensions and investigations come as officers continue to work through the insurrection that led to the death of Officer Brian Sicknick.

SOURCE: 18 February 2021, [CNN](#)

#### (U) District of Columbia – FEMA to Help Combat Domestic Terrorism

(U) Washington – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will soon help state and local authorities combat domestic extremism in the United States. The new guidance directed by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas was announced by FEMA to state and local officials in a briefing

last week. While the specifics of how FEMA will help in this new role have not been revealed, some ideas include expanding training, providing technical assistance to local jurisdictions for threat assessment investigations, and developing strategies to combat the influence of false online narratives.

SOURCE: 18 February 2021, [CNN](#)

**(U) Virginia – Coast Guard Returns to Portsmouth After Seizing \$40 Million in Illegal Drugs**

(U) Portsmouth – The Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane returned to its homeport in Portsmouth after a 71-day counter-drug patrol that interdicted at least \$40 million of illegal drugs. The Harriet Lane crew, along with the Colombian Navy, seized 980 kilograms of cocaine and 1,600 pounds of marijuana from two vessels suspected of illicit drug smuggling. Harriet Lane also detained seven suspected drug smugglers. The seven detainees, as well as 10 more suspected drug smugglers and \$206 million of illicit drugs, were transferred to Port Everglades, Florida to partner agencies for prosecution. Between operational tasking, the crew completed aviation, damage control, seamanship and navigation training to maintain operational readiness and prepare for future multi-mission deployments.

SOURCE: 18 February 2021, [WTKR](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL**

**(U) Australia – Inmate Charged Over Alleged Terrorism Plot to Attack Police Officers and Military**

(U) Goulburn – A Goulburn Supermax prison inmate has been indicted on terrorism charges for allegedly planning attacks against military, police and corrective services staff while behind bars. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) said the 24-year-old was found to be an associate of people they alleged were engaging in terror-related activities. The man was already being investigated by New South Wales Police's high-risk terrorist offender's unit, which ended with police being granted an order to keep the man behind bars. NSW Joint Counter Terrorism Team officers searched the prisoner's cell in Goulburn Supermax in October 2019 and allegedly found plans detailing acts of violent extremism aimed at police, military personnel, and correctional staff.

SOURCE: 18 February 2021, [ABC News](#)

**(U) Burkina Faso – At Least 18 Killed in Attacks in Burkina Faso and Mali**

(U) Ouagadougou – Suspected Islamic extremists killed at least 18 people in attacks in northern Burkina Faso and central Mali on Wednesday and Thursday. The attack in Burkina Faso happened yesterday morning between the towns of Markoye and Tokabangou, where residents were ambushed on their way to a market across the nearby border in Dolbel, Niger. Eight people died at the scene and nine were wounded, one of whom later died of injuries. In Mali, at least nine people were killed and others were missing or wounded in a spate of attacks near Bandiagara in the central Mopti region.

SOURCE: 19 February 2021, [US News](#)

**(U) Syria – US Reporter Held by Al-Qa'ida-Linked Group in Syria Released**

(U) Damascus – Bilal Abdul Kareem, a native of Mount Vernon, New York, has been released, six months after he was captured by an al-Qa'ida-linked militant group. The American journalist has been living in the rebel-held Syrian northwest since 2012, reporting on the Syrian government military campaigns against areas in opposition hands. He had been detained since last August, following a report he did about torture in the prisons of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the al-Qa'ida-linked group that dominates the area. Local prominent figures had appealed to the militants to release him. Abdul Kareem had reported and collaborated with Western news outlets, which had largely stayed out of the war-torn country after a spate of kidnapping. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham said Abdul Kareem was detained for spreading false news and working with groups that undermine security.

SOURCE: 18 February 2021, [Hindustan Times](#)

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